

A PRAYER IN THIS TIME OF DISTRESS

O God, healer of all our ills, to whom we turn in this time of distress, grant we pray in the power of faith, eternal rest to the dead and comfort to those who mourn, health to the sick and peace to the dying, strength to the medical workers, wisdom to our leaders and a spirit of kindness to us all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever Amen.

Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat



Keeping Sunday Holy—The Lord's Day—Watch and Pray

Television

1. Channel 9 Sunday 6 am Mass for You All At Home

On-Line

2. a). Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm—"Mass on Demand" <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>
b) throughout Sunday on <http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
c) St Joseph's from Sunday 8.30 am on Facebook—St Joseph's Warrnambool
d) Cathedral Melbourne—Sunday at 11 am, and Daily at 1pm
3. Pray as a Parish Family, between 5pm and 6pm on Sunday, Our Father and 10 Hail Mary, Meditate on **The Resurrection of Jesus**.
- 4.. Hymns of Praise, Sunday 11.30 am on ABC



Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Lent Year A

(John 9: 1-41) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's readings touch into the most profound of human mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see a sick person restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, the unexpected death of a loved one brings unimagined grief and pain. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that 'life' becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that 'death' so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The Gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, 'the one whom Jesus loved'. It is the last of the seven 'signs' in John's 'book of signs' that reveal the 'glory' of God. It is the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: '...from that day on they planned to put him to death' (11:53). It also provides the occasion for Jesus to assert 'I am the resurrection and the life' and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those 'Jews' who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage in the narrative and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. The women are introduced before Lazarus. Martha and Mary are identified as 'sisters' who live in Bethany. Are they blood 'sisters' or sisters in their love of Jesus, their faith commitment to him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick 'brother'. There is no mention at the outset of his relationship to Martha, though she later claims him as her 'brother'. Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: 'Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears'. The details of that story are yet to be narrated. The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is 'for the day of [his] burial'.

As so often in John's Gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama and us as actors in the theatre of Christian life to new levels of faith and understanding.



Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
East Warrnambool - Allansford
'A Star in the East'



PARISH BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Lent — 29th March 2020

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533

olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559

www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

Child Safety Officer—Dion Bartlett 0458 778 935

**"I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"**
JN 14, 18.

Recent Deaths: Those who have died from the Coronavirus

Anniversaries: Tony Clancey, Kevin McDowall, Des Surkitt, Patrick O'Toole, Joan Mugavin, Srs Geraldine Mugavin, Bridget Ryan, Loretta Foley, Stuart Nicholson

The Word of God: This Week: Ez 37: 12-14/ Rom 8: 8-11/ Jn 11: 1-45

Next Week: MT 21: 1-11 Mass: Is 50: 4-7 Phil 2: 6-11 / Mt 26:14-27:66

Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

We thank God for our 130 years of Worship and Community at St Carthage's Allansford. We remember parishioners and priests who have died and left us our Legacy of Catholic life. Deo Gratias



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: National Theme for Discernment:

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is open to conversion, renewal and reform? Join with the Parish Co-ordinating team to consider this Question, 7.30pm **Wednesday 6th May**.

A Prayer for the Plenary Council

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You have given us life and light and all the wonders of the world. You have sent your Son Jesus to be our Saviour and your Holy Spirit to be our guide.

As we prepare for the plenary council, we ask you to come into our hearts with your Son and Holy Spirit. Come to us and make your home in us.

We pray for our local community, for the people of our diocese and for the Church throughout Australia.

May your wisdom show us the way, for your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

Come and fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love, and we live by your gospel and share your good news with all we meet.

Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour, pray for us. St May MacKillop, pray for us.

Purple is a colour of preparation and anticipating joy

"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"

Today we welcome with great joy

Frankie Lemke,

Who is being baptised into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Our Lady Help of Christians East Warrnambool is a Child Safe Parish

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *(Keep for Daily Prayer)*

WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY AND FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION



Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R.** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory. No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; glory to our God.

Father Lawrie's Mass Intention this week are for The Sick and Elderly, Doctors, Nurses, Staff in our Nursing Homes, our Families, and the Parish Families, for the Forgiveness of Our Sins and Deceased. Those who are good to us, for the Extermination of the Coronavirus, and for those facing economic hardship and for Our World.

TODAY'S COLLECT PRAYER IS

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, May we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Kindness is a language the blind can see and the deaf can hear

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. We see ourselves in the crowds who cried "Hosanna to the Son of David" one day and "Crucify him" just a few days later. Like Peter and the other disciples we can be fickle followers of Jesus. We should not, however imitate Judas and despair at our infidelity. Rather, we should look to Jesus who allowed his blood to be poured out for many "for the forgiveness of sins". Let us praise him with grateful hearts.
On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery

"We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community." - Dorothy Day

Dear Friends, As we do our part to respond to the worldwide health emergency, it is good to add prayer to all the other steps we are taking. Earlier this week, a parishioner asked if I could compose a short prayer that would touch on some of the needs we see in the current crisis. On this feast of St Joseph, I offer the following: *We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic in Australia and around the world. We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends who are grieving. We pray for those who are sick and for the doctors and nurses and all who are caring for them. May Mary and Joseph and all the saints pray for us that we may have health of body and peace of heart and a spirit of kindness to one another.*
Yours in Christ, Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

The most wonderful places to be in the world are: In someone's thoughts. Someone's prayers. And in someone's heart.

PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL

OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmara People and other tribes. We deeply respect the Aboriginal Community upon whose land our parish resides.

WELCOME TO OLHC & ST. CARTHAGE In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

Our Parish Vision "Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God's Love."

Spend everyday with the saints. "Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me." (St Patrick; 17 March)

Worth Watching "Songs of Praise" Sundays 11.30am on ABC1.

View ABC1 Compass 11am Sundays.

Lent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Lent "Grace" are being organised by Dion Bartlett on Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm and by Sister Marie Mansbridge on Wednesday at 10am. Both will be in the Meeting Room.

New Parish Secretary is Yolande Hales. Yolande is wife of Brendan, they have two children Eleanor and Thomas. We welcome them. We thank Rachel Kelly for her excellence service. Rachel has been offered extended work at our Parish School. She is mentoring Yolande.

We thank **John and Jan Mahony** for taking on the Leadership of our Family Groups. We thank Louise & Michael Taggart and Sue & Paul Smith for their ministry to the Family Groups and the Parish.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation is available by appointment 5561 1533

Emmanuel College 2021 Enrolment Now Open Close 24th April

The next **Parish Co-ordinating Team Meeting** will be held 7th May at 7.30 pm

Adult Education Online Sacraments Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy Leadership and more. Three weeks courses begin 19th April. Registrations close 7th April. Information

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au on

0407 533 424, Kim Butler.



If you wish to give to our **Parish Finances** via bank transfer:
BSB: 06 3533 Acc. No: 0090 3353
Ref: Planned Giving

Pope's Prayer Intentions for March

Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Marriage Tip: Fighting Fair Tip: Avoid the kitchen sink. This doesn't mean you can't argue in the kitchen but rather, keep to the topic. Don't bring up "everything but the kitchen sink."

Project Compassion—Week 4: India

Tawonga is a 10 year old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed.

Prayer of Intercession

We pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world who are denied their basic human rights. May we stand in solidarity as a global community, working courageously to promote justice and uphold the dignity of all people.

Diocesan Delegates for the Plenary Council with Bishop Paul are:

Fr Kevin Moloney, Felicity Krobek (Cathedral Parish), Marie Shaddock (Ouyen), Fr Kevin Lenehan (Catholic Theological College), Mons. Glynn Murphy (Military Chaplain)

